

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SP-02

EB-07 DOTE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:MCOOLEY/ML
APPROVED BY PM/ISO: GTCHURCHILL
EA/ANP - T. WADJA
ONSOD/PME119 - R.VASS

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R 202118Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
INFO CNO
CINCPAC
COGARD ONSOD
COMDT USCG WASHDC
COMNAVELSYSCOM
CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207836

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, US, MARR

SUBJECT: OMEGA AUSTRALIA

REF: STATE 93703 (DTG 171011Z APR 76)

1. CDR HERBERT, USN PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM DETAIL (ONSOD) HAS RECEIVED A LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST FROM L.C. JACOB, GOA FIRST ASST SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT AND CHAIRMAN OF GOA INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON OMEGA, WHICH HAS CREATED DOUBT IN ONSOD AND THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE STATUS OF OMEGA IN AUSTRALIA. JACOB STATES THAT NOTWITHSTANDING HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL OF
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OMEGA, THE PROJECT STILL FACES SERIOUS POLITICAL OPPOSITION,

PARTICULARLY FROM AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF IMPORTANT TRADE UNIONS AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT CONCERNED WITH THE POTENTIAL HOBART AND MAC QUARIE IS. SITES. WHILE WE WERE ADVISED IN MID-APRIL BY THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY THAT DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO A RAPID AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE 1972 US/AUSTRALIA DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD BEGIN IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS (PARA ONE, TIC THREE OF REFTEL), THE JACOBE LETTER SUGGESTS THAT AN OCTOBER MEETING IN AUSTRALIA OF CONCERNED GOA/US OFFICIALS WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS, BUT THAT SUCH TALKS WOULD

BE QUOTE VERY PRELIMINARY (AND) OF COURSE...COULD NOT REACH FINALITY EXCEPT IN A FEW INSTANCES UNQUOTE.

2. ONSOD IS DISMAYED BY GOA APPARENT INABILITY TO ESTABLISH A FIRM DATE FOR COMMENCING DISCUSSIONS AND THE GENERALLY NEGATIVE TONE OF THE JACOBE LETTER. NEVERTHELESS ONSOD WISHES TO CONTINUE PRESSING FOR A TIMELY AGREEMENT AND ENVISIONS THE FOLLOWING AS THE OPTIMUM SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

A) AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE 28-30 SEPT TECHNICAL CONFERENCE OF OMEGA NATION AGENCIES IN BERGEN, NORWAY. CDR HERBERT HAS ADVISED MR. W. WILLOUGHBY, THE AUSTRALIAN OMEGA PROJECT COORDINATOR, OF THIS MEETING AND HAS INFORMALLY INVITED HIM TO IT IN A LETTER DATED 6 AUGUST, TO WHICH NO REPLY HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED. THE HOST NORWEGIAN AGENCY WILL ISSUE A FORMAL INVITATION.

B) AN OCTOBER MEETING IN AUSTRALIA BETWEEN A SMALL ONSOD GROUP HEADED BY CDR HERBERT AND AMEMBASSY OFFICIALS, AND THEIR APPROPRIATE GOA COUNTERPARTS, TO INITIAL A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE BASED UPON THE DRAFT 1972 AUSTRALIA-US OMEGA AGREEMENT WITH THE MINOR CHANGES WE HAVE FORWARDED TO YOU.

C) ONE OR MORE TECHNICAL MEETINGS AS NECESSARY AT SUBSEQUENT DATES TO BE AGREED UPON AT THE OCTOBER MEETING IN ORDER TO WORK OUT TECHNICAL DETAILS.

3. FYI. WHILE ONSOD WOULD BE WILLING TO REVERSE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SEQUENCE OF STEPS B AND C (I.E., TO SEND A TECHNICAL TEAM BEFORE INITIALING A FORMAL AGREEMENT), THEIR OFFICIALS WOULD NEED TO HAVE A FIRM IDEA FOR BUDGETARY PLANNING PURPOSES OF WHICH MAJOR FUNCTIONS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY EACH NATION AND WHICH WILL BE JOINTLY FUNDED, IN ORDER TO INSURE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN CY77. ONSOD FUNDS MUST BE COMMITTED BY 1 JAN 77. END FYI.

4. IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUED DELAYS WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED
IN THIS MATTER AND THE PESSIMISTIC TONE OF THE JACOB
LETTER, REQUEST THAT YOU APPROACH GOA TO CLARIFY CURRENT
GOA VIEWS ON OMEGA AND REACH AGREEMENT ON A TIMETABLE FOR
DISCUSSIONS ALONG LINES PARA 2 ABOVE. JACOB LETTER WILL
BE POUCHED SEPARATELY. HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, OMEGA, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE207836
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MCOOLEY/ML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760320-1291
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760833/aaaabbyk.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 93703
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMEGA AUSTRALIA
TAGS: MARR, AS, US
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006